

KENYA'S BLIND FARMERS

Alexander Mackay

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AMERICAN FOUNDATION  
FOR THE BLIND INC.

BRITISH

EMPIRE

SOCIETY

FOR THE

BLIND

KENYA'S  
BLIND  
FARMERS

*Report by*

ALEXANDER MACKAY

Headquarters:

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CTORIA ST.,

LONDON,

S.W.1.

1956

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# KENYA BLIND FARMERS

Shamba Training Centre  
at Kolanya, near Malikisi, Kenya

This Centre is financed by the Kenya Branch  
of the British Empire Society for the Blind

and

attached to and administered by the Salvation Army

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**BRITISH EMPIRE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND**

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**BRITISH EMPIRE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND**

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**KENYA'S BLIND FARMERS**

*by*

**ALEXANDER MACKAY**

*(East African Regional Officer British Empire Society for the Blind)*

with a Foreword by

**JOHN F. WILSON**, O.B.E.

*(Director of the British Empire Society for the Blind)*

**1956**



## KENYA'S BLIND FARMERS

### FOREWORD

This pamphlet describes the first year's work at a Training Centre for blind peasant cultivators at Kolanya near Malakisi in Western Kenya. This novel Centre, where the class-rooms are mud huts and the students learn to use hoes instead of Braille frames, is the first of a series of experiments to demonstrate that the blind can take an active part in the village and tribal life of Africa. These African experiments, and others planned in Asia, may well give a new pattern and purpose to work for the blind in the under-developed territories where, through its emphasis on literacy and urban occupations, blind welfare has often seemed to be ill adapted to the needs of a predominantly rural population.

This task of adapting training methods to the realities of life in the underdeveloped territories, where probably nine-tenths of the world's blind population lives, is one of the most challenging problems confronting blind welfare workers to-day. Conditions differ so widely from one country to another and even amongst different communities in the same country that there can clearly be no single, simple answer. The new policies will have to be worked out on the ground in practical experiments which, like this modest project in Kenya, are related to a particular set of local conditions. The typical East African shamba (the Swahili word means a garden, small holding or farm) consists of a few acres on which a family grows most of its food and probably raises a cash crop and some livestock. The possibility of training blind East Africans for "rural" occupations was considered by an official blind welfare delegation in 1946 and was the subject of a special report by Sir Clutha Mackenzie who visited East Africa in 1953 as an adviser of The British Empire Society for the Blind. A number of exceptional blind individuals have shown that they can make a livelihood from their "shamba", but this is the first organised training scheme for blind shamba cultivators.

A few statistics will show the economic value of a training scheme of this kind. A recent survey has estimated that there are from 65,000 to 70,000 blind persons in Kenya of whom at least a third are children and young people of working age. At present most of them live as dependents of their family or community, and their food, clothing and shelter, assuming that it costs merely £10 annually for each individual, must represent an economic burden of at least £650,000 annually. The cost of training a blind man to be largely self-supporting as a shamba cultivator is probably less than the cost of maintaining him in idleness for four years.

An important feature of the experiment in Kenya is that its cost has been kept down to a figure which is within the resources of any

community in Africa. The buildings cost £550 and the total recurrent cost during the first year was £490. Moreover, the scheme, though planned by experts, was administered by staff who, though they had much knowledge of the locality and its agricultural practices, had no previous experience of training the blind.

The author of this pamphlet, Mr. Alexander Mackay, is the East African Regional Adviser of The British Empire Society for the Blind. He has taken a keen personal interest in the experiment and has visited the centre frequently during the year. He would be the first to emphasise that the credit for this work belongs to the Committee of the Kenya Branch, which financed it, to the Department of Agriculture and, above all, to the Salvation Army whose staff responded in a characteristically vigorous manner to the opportunity to start a piece of good work whose consequences might well have far reaching importance.

John F. Wilson,  
British Empire Society for the Blind.

April, 1956

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRAINING CENTRE**

1. The first Shamba Training Centre for blind Africans in Kenya was opened at Malakisi, North Nyanza, at the end of March, 1955. It was financed by the Kenya Branch of the British Empire Society for the Blind and attached to a well established Mission run by the Salvation Army. It was extremely fortunate that this was possible as a pilot scheme of this nature, where so much of the early work must, of necessity, be experimental, requires constant European supervision. This was the first Training Centre of its kind in East Africa and probably in the whole of the Commonwealth. The Centre has now been in existence for nearly one year and the following notes, based on experience gained at Malakisi, are written in the hope that they may prove helpful to blind welfare workers in other underdeveloped parts of the world who may wish to experiment with similar centres.

2. The main reasons which prompted the Kenya Branch of the British Empire Society for the Blind to give early consideration to the establishment of a Shamba Training Centre may be summarised as follows.

(i) Agriculture is still the basic economy of the Colony.

(ii) Serious consideration must be given to any form of training which seeks to ensure that the blind African can be absorbed back into his family and tribal life as an earning member of the community.

(iii) Blind Shamba Workers who have received no training are not unknown in East Africa. It was realised that these are exceptional cases, men of courage and determination, but what can be done by the few is obviously not an impossibility for the many, if adequate training is provided in an environment comparable with that encountered on the ordinary Shamba.

(iv) Women undertake quite a large amount of the work on a Shamba. If the sighted wife and the blind husband can be taught to work as a team—instead of the blind man being left to sit in the shade of the hut or a friendly tree—the earning capacity of the family unit must obviously be increased. Passengers are expensive items among an agricultural community, especially during a bad year.

## **NUMBER OF TRAINEES AND SIZE OF THE CENTRE**

3. The Centre at Malakisi being an entirely new venture it was decided to limit the first intake of trainees to twelve. This would ensure that each student received a considerable amount of individual attention from the qualified Agricultural Instructor in charge of the training programme. It was decided that no provision would be made for teaching Braille reading or writing and this was made



abundantly clear to the trainees before, or immediately after, they entered the Centre. This was a very wise precaution for the blind African has a pathetic belief in Braille. He regards it as a panacea for all his ills whereas, in fact, with a few exceptions, it is of little value to him so far as earning a living on the land is concerned. Practical instruction was to be the order of the day at Malakisi throughout the entire course.

4. It was considered that a minimum of eight acres would be required for the scheme. The plot acquired at Malakisi, adjacent to the Mission Schools and hospital, was just over eight acres. About one acre was set aside for residential purposes, pathways, etc., leaving seven acres available for cultivation.

The first blind trainees arrived in February, 1955, and by the end of March, twelve were in residence—a little too late for us to utilise the long rains to full advantage. I am of the opinion that sufficient care was not given to the selection of the first twelve trainees. Trainees should be selected most carefully before the Training Centre opens. All should be physically fit and between the ages of sixteen and forty years. Included in the group should be those who are totally blind and those with guiding vision. If possible the first intake should also contain persons who have recently lost their sight and those whose blindness is of longer standing.

Married men should be encouraged to bring their wives for part of the course at least. After the last war St. Dunstan's trained close on a hundred blind ex-servicemen at a model farm and settled them on small-holdings. Provision was made for wives to spend a few months working with their husbands at the Training Farm. Many of these settlements were highly successful and where this was so one always found that the blind man and his wife worked closely as a team. Investigation of the failures invariably revealed the reverse—team work is essential for the blind agriculturist. Blind women were not admitted as trainees to the pilot Centre at Malakisi but as women do a great deal of work in the fields there is no reason why blind women should not receive Shamba Training when more Centres are available.

### **ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED**

5. Provision must be made for living quarters, dining room, ablutions, etc., as all the Trainees will be boarders. The following buildings were erected on the residential area at Malakisi and have proved quite adequate:—

- 2—Four roomed dwelling houses—each room could accommodate two single trainees or a man and his wife (i.e., accommodation for sixteen).

1—Instructor's House.

1—Dining Room.

1—Kitchen.

1—Tool House.

2—Lavatories.

2—Bathrooms.

6. The total capital cost, including furnishings and tools, was £550, a very modest sum (see Appendix "B"). It was assumed that four or five of the first intake would be married and might bring their wives to the Centre. It was decided that all the dwelling houses, etc., should be of typical African construction—rammed murrum walls and thatched roofs—similar to those seen on any Shamba in the Colony. Likewise, the furnishings—beds, tables, chairs, cupboards, etc.—are typical of those found in any Shamba home. There is much wisdom in this decision for it is my opinion that many of those responsible for blind welfare in underdeveloped countries have sought to introduce too rapidly the amenities of training centres and similar establishments in highly developed countries. The blind welfare services now formed in Britain were not built in a day and to export them indiscriminately is likely to do more harm than good. Nothing was envisaged in the building and furnishing programme at Malakisi which would tend to alienate the trainee from the home he knew and to which he must return. All the dwellings are well built—the type we would like to see on all shambas—but in every respect they are essentially African and delightfully cool and pleasant.

### STAFF AND RECURRENT COSTS

7. It was estimated that recurrent costs would be in the region of £465 per annum, the actual figure at the end of the first twelve months was £490 per annum (see Appendix "C"). This includes the wages of the Agricultural Instructor, a sighted assistant who is also responsible for the general welfare of the trainees, a blind craft instructor and kitchen staff. In addition, each trainee is fed, receives Shs. 2/- per week pocket money and is supplied with a blanket, two pairs of khaki shorts and two shirts on enrolment. I think it is essential to ensure that all the trainees are adequately clothed at the Centre. They usually arrive dressed in anything from old "Kanzus" to ragged shirts and shorts and personal cleanliness has often been neglected. Restoration of self respect is of primary importance and the issue of clean clothing on arrival at the Centre and simple talks on personal hygiene are an essential part of the general rehabilitation.

### LAYOUT OF AGRICULTURAL AREA

8. Considerable thought must be given to the lay-out of the agricultural area to ensure that it is put to the best possible use. It would appear that there are two ways of tackling this problem:—

(a) Allocate a specific area—say one acre—to each trainee and make him completely responsible for it. On this plot he will be

expected to cultivate—according to the season—the various crops peculiar to the district in which the Shamba Training Centre is situated. The Agricultural Instructor should have a similar plot in a central position where he can give group instruction to all the trainees in certain techniques, or

(b) Arrange for the agricultural area to be surveyed by the planning team of the Department of Agriculture and divide it up into strips in a manner approved by the local Farm Planning Officer (see Appendix “A”). A training programme is then devised whereby the trainees work as a body on each strip under the personal supervision of the Agricultural Instructor.

When the size of the agricultural plot is small (as at Malakisi) the second alternative must be adopted. It is my opinion that the “strip method” is preferable even if there is unlimited ground available for agricultural purposes. I am not in favour of elaborate, and therefore costly, rural training schemes which at this stage must be largely experimental. Even at a much later date I would prefer to see twelve small Training Centres (similar to Malakisi) at District level rather than four large Centres at Provincial level coping with the same number of students (say 140).

### **TASK OF THE AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTOR**

9. No agricultural Instructor, unless he has several assistants, can give the individual attention which is essential if his 35 students are spread over some 20-30 acres. I am all in favour of the blind trainees working as a well-knit unit under the watchful eye of the Agricultural Instructor. I realise that twelve small centres mean twelve qualified Agricultural Instructors, but four large centres would certainly call for eight qualified men if the trainees are to receive individual attention during each working day. At present the Department of Agriculture has to be called upon for qualified Instructors but as a scheme of this nature gains momentum efforts would be made to train one's own instructors, some of whom must be blind men who have shown special ability during their course of training. It is essential that the Agricultural Instructor at a pilot centre should be fully qualified and a man of some initiative. Much of the success of a pilot scheme will depend on finding the right man.

The need for well selected and well trained Instructors is paramount and, as rural training schemes are developed in different parts of East Africa, that question will have to be tackled. Experience of this first year at Malakisi indicates the importance of keeping such training on a strictly practical basis and of avoiding anything which would incline the Instructors to regard themselves as superior specialists. It will be possible, first at Malakisi, and later in other centres, to train sufficient Instructors to ensure that in due course every district in Kenya has its own Shamba Training Centre.

## **CLEARING THE BUSH AND USE OF JEMBE**

10. At Malakisi the agricultural area was covered with heavy bush which would have proved extremely difficult for an inexperienced blind man to clear. Using a tractor, this dense bush was cleared and the land ploughed by staff from the Department of Agriculture. The blind trainees then took over, breaking the land with the traditional "Jembe" in preparation for planting with the rains. Blindness has proved no handicap to wielding a "jembe" for breaking and clearing the land once the initial dense undergrowth has been removed. Full details of the crops planted during the long rains (commencing in April) and the short rains (commencing in September) are given in Appendix "A". A rope stretched tightly across the particular strip being sown was needed to guide the trainees when planting the first drill. The necessary growing space between each young plant (bean or seed) was measured by using a notched stick as a guide. The same stick can also be used (notched accordingly) to ensure that the correct distance is maintained between each drill. When the first drill has been planted the taut rope is moved the required distance and planting of the second (and subsequent drills) is undertaken. Sighted assistance may be necessary when establishing the first drill, unless there is a very well defined fence or verge where each agricultural strip begins (or ends), but little help is required when dealing with subsequent drills.

## **CROPS PLANTED**

11. As the Farm Plan (Appendix "A") which is now being strictly followed was not received in time for the long rains in 1955, the following crops were planted—bananas, citrus, cassava, cabbages, carrots, beans, cotton (to help clear the land) and napier grass (see Appendix "D"). No major difficulty was experienced by the trainees in the planting of any of these crops. As banana trees and citrus fruit trees are widely spaced, a knotted rope is better than a notched stick to ensure that the holes dug to receive the young banana or citrus trees are correctly spaced. Weeding the drills when the young plants started to shoot presented some difficulty at first and quite a number of young plants were uprooted in mistake for weeds. Gradually, however, the trainees learned to differentiate by touch between the young shoots and the adjacent weeds. Touch weeding is well within the scope of a blind man; a few young plants may be lost but this is a small matter when weeding a couple of acres planted with legumes or cereals. A short handled jembe or fork is useful for weeding around the growing plants but with a little care the area between the drills can be cleared with an ordinary jembe. Weeding the patch devoted to bananas and citrus bushes with a jembe presents little difficulty on account of the space between each tree.



## STALL FED CATTLE

12. A special note is now necessary to explain why so much of the arable land was devoted to growing napier grass. On a small intensively cultivated shamba planned by a District Agricultural Officer I was introduced to the stall feeding system for cattle. In a stall built of poles and with a thatched roof were two cows both in beautiful condition and with a milk yield well above the average. There was nothing elaborate about the stall; it was very much like the hundreds of cattle " bomas " which one sees throughout Kenya and into which the herds are driven every night. The difference here, however, is that the cattle never leave the stall except for milking, spraying or to get a little sun on their backs. This is done by driving the beasts into a smaller stall (unroofed) which is attached to the main stall as shown in Appendix " E ". The cattle are watered regularly and each receives a daily feed of 90-100 lbs. of napier grass. The grass is simply thrown into the stall and what is not eaten is trampled into an excellent manure which gradually builds up as the days and weeks go by to be removed for use on the shamba. I could see nothing connected with the whole system of stall feeding which could not be undertaken by a blind man. Cutting 100 lbs. of napier grass from a neighbouring strip and feeding this to each animal is simplicity itself. Neither watering nor milking presents any difficulty. Spraying each animal twice weekly is not beyond the skill of a blind man once he has learned the technique. Special care not to damage the animals' eyes during spraying would be necessary, but this could easily be overcome by using a simple head bandage specially designed for the purpose. It is my opinion that the stall feeding system is ideally suitable for the blind agriculturist and should be included in every shamba training scheme. As I have already mentioned, the milk yield is excellent and the condition of the stall fed cattle leaves nothing to be desired. A regular supply of manure is of the utmost importance where intensive farming of a limited area is the order of the day and this intensive type of farming may well prove to be the best answer for the blind agriculturist.

Arrangements are in hand to build a stall at Malakisi. It will be large enough (20ft. x 12ft.) to house two cows. On account of the water shortage at Malakisi it has been decided to roof the stall with aluminium sheets rather than the usual thatch. A 1,000 gallon tank will also be installed to store the water from the roof during the rainy seasons. It is estimated that this stall, including the tank and aluminium sheets, will cost £50. In an area with an adequate water supply, a thatched stall would not cost more than £20. Two cows purchased through the Veterinary Department will account for a further £25.



## IMPORTANCE OF WELL DEFINED PATHS

13. It has been found unnecessary at Malakisi to erect guide ropes or wires to assist the trainees around the shamba. Well defined paths—particularly a central path running the whole length of the shamba—make other aids unnecessary. To assist the trainees to identify the various agricultural strips, a stout pole has been placed at each side of the central path to indicate where each strip begins and ends.

## LENGTH OF COURSE AND HOURS OF WORK

14. Working hours for the trainees vary according to the time of the year and are as follows:—

- (a) From March to June, inclusive, from 7 a.m. to 12 noon.
- (b) From July to September, inclusive, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- (c) From October to November, 7 a.m. to 12 noon.
- (d) From December to February, inclusive, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

It is essential that the trainees adhere strictly to this time-table. Several hours each week are devoted to simple lectures on planting, rotation of crops, care of cattle, etc., given by the Agricultural Instructor. Each course lasts a full year as this enables the trainees to take an active part in preparing the land, sowing, weeding, harvesting and studying the full cycle of all the crops grown in the district in which the Centre is situated. It has been suggested that a shorter course lasting six months is sufficient. I do not subscribe to this view when dealing with the ordinary trainee who has almost certainly lived in idleness since the onset of blindness. Special short courses for blind men who have actively continued to cultivate their shambas—whereby they may be taught to become more efficient—is a different matter.

At the end of the course, the trainees will return to their family shambas. The pilot scheme at Malakisi has definitely shown that with training, a blind man can actively participate in the work of his shamba. The first group of trainees were all recruited in the Nyanza area and the local chiefs, who have shown a keen interest in the scheme, have promised to keep a watchful eye on the trainees when they return to their own shambas. The Locational and Sub-Locational Instructors of the Department of Agriculture have agreed to visit the blind agriculturists on their shambas at regular intervals and help to smooth out any difficulties which may arise. Local Community Development Officers have also been requested to keep in touch with the trainees when they finish the course at Malakisi and to report to us, without delay, if things go wrong.

## SIMPLE CRAFT INSTRUCTION AND RECREATION

15. To provide the trainees with a break from normal shamba work, a blind craft instructor was appointed to the staff to give instruction in various crafts allied to shamba life. Using local materials the trainees are taught to make simple agricultural baskets, sisal rope and sisal mats. Fortunately, there is a well-equipped joiners shop attached to the Mission School and the blind trainees are given instruction in simple carpentry.

16. During leisure hours the trainees are encouraged to sing and to take part in any functions which may be organised by the staff and children at the Mission Schools. Drums, triangles and an accordion—very popular—are provided. The wireless is a great source of entertainment particularly during the hours devoted to broadcasts in Swahili or other vernaculars. The trainees are enthusiastic listeners to talks in the vernacular on “ Better Farming ”, “ Care of Cattle ” and other agricultural topics.

ALEX MACKAY,  
*Regional Adviser.*

*4th April, 1956.*

6 YEARS ROTATION, 3 YEARS ARABLE, 3 YEARS GRASS

## ANALYSIS OF CROPS IN ACRES

	1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962	
	LR	SR	LR	SR	LR	SR	LR	SR	LR	SR	LR	SR	LR	SR
CEREALS ...	3.33		3.33		3.33		3.33		3.33		3.33			
ROOTS ...		1.11		1.11		1.11		1.11		1.11		1.11		
LEGUMES ...		2.22		2.22		2.22		2.22		2.22		2.22		
NAPIER GRASS	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33		
MANURE ...		1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11		

7 0.16 CITRUS AND POULTRY

8 0.11 LEGUMES

9 0.11 CATTLE BOMA

10 0.11 BANANAS

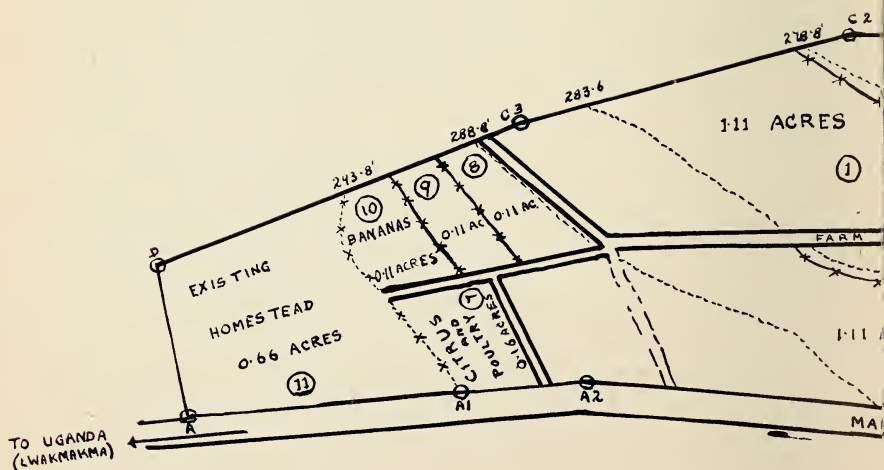
11 0.66 HOMESTEAD

12 0.43 FARM ROAD

THE STOCK CARRYING CAPACITY OF THIS HOLDING IS 1 STOCK UNIT.

1 STOCK UNIT = 1 ADULT BEAST or 2 IMMATURE BEASTS or 5 SHEEP or GOATS or 1 DONKEY

Farm Plan





**SHAMBA TRAINING CENTRE, MALAKISI**  
**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

	£
2—Four roomed dwelling houses ... ..	235
1—Instructor's House (2 rooms) ... ..	25
1—Dining Room ... ..	50
1—Kitchen ... ..	12
2—Lavatories ... ..	5
2—Bathrooms ... ..	8
1—Tool House ... ..	15
Land Compensation (8 acres at £5 per acre)	40
Initial Land Clearance ... ..	20
Tools ... ..	20
Furnishings—Dormitories, dining room, kitchen, etc. ... ..	70
Water Supply ... ..	50
Total	<u>£550</u>

## APPENDIX "C"

**SHAMBA TRAINING CENTRE, MALAKISI**  
**ANNUAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE**

	£
Agricultural Instructor ... ..	48
Assistant Instructor and Welfare Officer ... ..	42
Craft Instructor (Part time) ... ..	24
Kitchen Staff (2) ... ..	48
Pocket Money (Trainees) ... ..	60
Food, fuel, soap, etc. ... ..	218
Clothing and Blanket ... ..	50
Total	<u>£490</u>

## Crops Planted

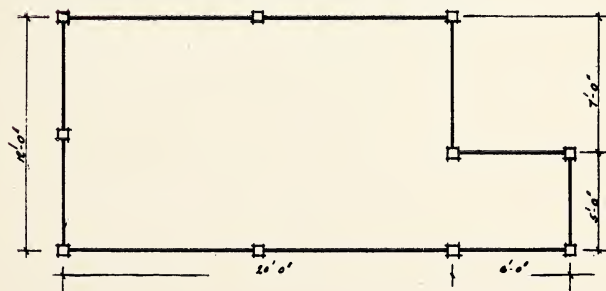
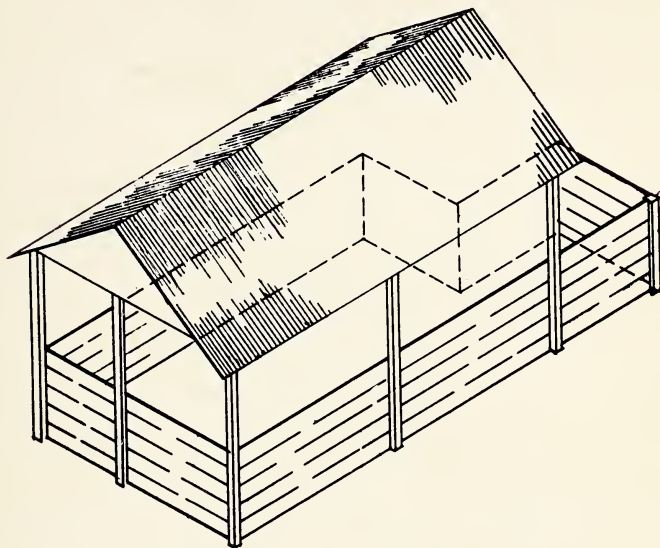
## APPENDIX "D"

Field No.	Area in Acres	1955 Crop	1956 Crop (Long Rains)	1956 Crop (Short Rains)
1	1.11	Napier Grass.	Maize interplanted with Napier Grass.	Napier Grass.
2	1.11	Napier Grass.	Maize, Wimbi or Mtama.	Beans, Peas.
3	1.11	Cotton.	Maize, Wimbi or Mtama.	Beans, Peas.
4	1.11	Cotton.	Napier Grass.	Napier Grass.
5	1.11	Cotton.	Napier Grass.	Napier Grass.
6	1.11	Beans, Cassava, Sweet Potatoes.	Napier Grass.	Potatoes, Turnips, Carrots.
7	0.16	Citrus Trees.	Citrus Trees.	Citrus Trees.
8	0.11	Cabbages, Carrots.	Beans, Peas.	Beans, Peas.
9	0.11	Cattle Boma.	Cattle Boma.	Cattle Boma.
10	0.11	Bananas.	Bananas.	Bananas.



Shamba Training Centre, Malakisi, Kenya

CATTLE STALL



### Shamba Training Centre, Malakisi, Kenya

This training centre is the first of its kind in Africa. Funds are made available for the scheme by the Kenya Branch of the British Empire Society for the Blind. There is co-operation of all Government Departments, particularly the Department of Agriculture. The centre is run by the Salvation Army as part of a large Mission School.



Trainees walking to work, hand on the shoulder of the man in front, each carrying a "Jembe" with the African Instructor acting as guide.



## Shamba Training Centre, Malakisi, Kenya



Trainees on the right of the central path are weeding a cabbage patch. The two on the left are weeding a small area devoted to growing sweet potatoes. The clumps in the foreground are napier grass for cattle feeding. Both the cabbages and sweet potatoes are used as food for the trainees. On the right between the large tree and the residential area are several young banana trees which have been planted by the trainees. Note the well defined central path and subsidiary paths. No guide wires or ropes are used at the centre.



The trainees going to work. They leave the residential area on their own and walk down the well defined central path. Note the young clumps of napier grass on their right and the rows of young cotton—growing well on their left.



Shamba Training Centre, Malakisi, Kenya



The trainees weeding with the traditional "Jembe" between the clumps of napier grass. They have planted about one-and-a-half acres with napier grass used for feeding the two cattle kept in a stall at the training centre. Behind the trainees is a large area planted with cotton—still very young.



Filipo who is totally blind planting beans. Note the taut rope stretched across the plot to ensure that the drill is straight. A notched stick is used to ensure that the correct distance is maintained between each drill and each bean planted.



## Shamba Training Centre, Malakisi, Kenya



Measuring the correct distance before planting the next bean. A good crop of beans was grown for the use in the kitchen at the training centre in 1955.



A good crop of cabbages was harvested in 1955 for use in the kitchen. In this case the young cabbages were grown from seed on the Mission School farm (by sighted schoolboys) and given as a gift to the Blind Training Centre. The "Jembe" is used for digging holes for planting cabbages or roots of napier grass; a measuring stick and guide line are used for spacing the holes.



## Shamba Training Centre, Malakisi, Kenya



The agricultural instructor telling the class how to assess the quality of maize cobs by touch. This is done by feeling the size and number of beans on each cob. The maize was grown at the centre and forms part of the trainees' food.



Blind trainees listening to a broadcast in Swahili. These programmes are very popular both from the entertainment and instructional point of view. Listening to broadcasts in Swahili or other vernaculars on better farming, care of cattle or other agricultural topics is part of the recognised course. The wireless set in use is one of the well-known "saucepan" type battery sets. Captain A. Holland, of the Salvation Army, who is in charge of the whole Mission at Malakisi, is sitting on the table.

*The Society wishes to acknowledge the kind permission  
given by the Director of Information Kenya  
to publish the photographs in this booklet*

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